

Message Text

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51

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 SR-02 ORM-01

AID-05 L-02 H-01 /062 W
----- 095457

P R 281135Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2710

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 1467

D/PW FOR HENDERSON

GENEVA FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: PGNU FONMIN FORWARDS LPF LETTER

DENYING KNOWLEDGE OF DEAN/SHARMAN WHEREABOUTS

REF: VIENTIANE 1394

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 28 LETTERS FROM FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT TO THE SECRETARY AND THE AMBASSADOR, EACH TRANSMITTING A FRENCH TRANSLATION (AND COPY OF THE LAO ORIGINAL) OF LPF REPRESENTATIVE SANAN'S FEBRUARY 24 LETTER TO PHOUMI (REFTEL). AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO JUST RECEIVED LETTER AND ATTACHMENTS, AS WELL AS LETTER TO FONMIN WILLESEE. WE SHALL BE COMPARING VERSIONS BUT WE BELIEVE THEY ARE ALL SIMILAR.

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2. WE HAVE COMPARED LAO ORIGINAL OF SANAN'S LETTER WITH

FOREIGN MINISTRY'S FRENCH TRANSLATION. TRANSLATION IS ACCURATE AND NO NUANCES WERE MISSED.

3. TEXTS IN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER

QUOTE - I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR MESSAGE THROUGH WHICH YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO NOTIFY ME OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. CHARLES DEAN, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

QUOTE - THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION UNDERSTOOD VERY WELL THE PREOCCUPATION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OVER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CHARLES DEAN. IT (PGNU) HAS UTILIZED ALL MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING THE ELUCIDATION AND THE TRUTH CONCERNING THIS MATTER AND HAS TRANSMITTED A COPY OF YOUR AFOREMENTIONED MESSAGE AND A COPY OF THE NOTE-VERBALE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN SAM NEUA, REQUESTING THAT IT PROCEED WITH ALL NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO CLEAR UP THIS QUESTION.

QUOTE - I HAVE JUST RECEIVED, ON FEBRUARY 24, LETTER NUMBER 22 OF THE SAME DATE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN VIENTIANE WHICH GIVES AN EXPLANATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION WHICH HE HAS CONDUCTED INTO THIS MATTER.

QUOTE - I AM ATTACHING FOR YOUR INFORMATION A COPY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED LETTER FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TOGETHER WITH A TRANSLATION.

QUOTE - I HAVE ASKED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO CONTINUE TO CONDUCT ANY INVESTIGATION WHICH IT POSSIBLY CAN IN ORDER TO OBTAIN DEFINITIVE RESULTS IN THIS MATTER. I SHALL NOT FAIL TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU ANY INFORMATION WHICH I AM ABLE TO OBTAIN ON THIS SUBJECT. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE). UNQUOTE

B. LETTER TO AMBASSADOR

QUOTE - IN ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER IN WHICH YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO SEND ME THE MESSAGE OF YOUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARY OF STATE AND GAVE ME INDICATIONS CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF YOUR COUNTRYMAN CHARLES DEAN, I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOU THAT I MADE AN IMMEDIATE REQUEST TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN SAM NEUA ASKING IT TO UNDERTAKE A JUDICIOUS (SIC) INVESTIGATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINDING THE TRACES OF THE MISSING PERSON AND THAT VERY RECENTLY, BY THE INTERMEDIARY OF ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

OF THE LPF INFORMED ME THAT FOR THE MOMENT IT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO TURN UP ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING HIM.
QUOTE - I THEREFORE HAVE THE HONOR TO SEND YOU HERewith A COPY OF THE LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1975 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LPF IN VIENTIANE WITH ITS TRANSLATION AND AT THE SAME TIME TO ASK YOU TO TRANSMIT MY LETTER NO. 57/AE-AP OF 28 FEBRUARY 1975 (A COPY OF WHICH IS ALSO ENCLOSED AND ADDRESSED TO YOU) TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IN RESPONSE TO HIS MESSAGE THAT YOU HAD THE COURTESY TO SEND ME RECENTLY. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE). UNQUOTE

C. SANAN'S LETTER TO FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT:
QUOTE - AT THE REQUEST OF YOUR EXCELLENCY TO UNDERTAKE INQUIRIES INTO THE FATE OF THE SAID MESSRS. CHARLES DEAN AND SHERMAN (SIC), RESPECTIVELY OF AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN NATIONALITY, REPORTED MISSING IN THE REGION OF PAK KADING, AND ACCORDING TO THE COPY OF THE LETTER OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO YOUR EXCELLENCY WHICH IS FOUNDED ON THE DIFFERENT TESTIMONIES TAKEN FROM A SO-CALLED "SOLDIER OF THE NATIONAL ARMY" WHO ESCAPED FROM THE PATRIOTIC FORCES AND FROM AUTHORITIES OF THE PARTY OF VIENTIANE, I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOU OF THE FOLLOWING:

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 SR-02 ORM-01

AID-05 L-02 H-01 /062 W

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P R 281135Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2711

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

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QUOTE - DESIRING SINCERELY TO CORRECTLY AND STRICTLY IMPLEMENT THE VIENTIANE ACCORD AND ITS PROTOCOL, THE PATRIOTIC FORCES HAVE ALWAYS TREATED FOREIGNERS IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER. IN THE PAST, AND EVEN DURING THE PERIOD OF INTENSE WARFARE, MANY FOREIGNERS: SWEDES, FRENCH, CANADIANS, AMERICANS AND OTHERS ILLEGALLY ENTERED INTO THE ZONE CONTROLLED BY THE VAONEOT#

VPLVVC PX
LZHX
'K/34UIU#Q9FYPW
)- #";
FFAKFRI

KAAVRB AILE# INQUIRY INTO
THE FACTS, THEY FREED THEM AND PERMITTED THEM TO RETURN HOME ACCORDING TO THEIR DESIRES.
QUOTE - BUT IN THE CASE OF MR. CHARLES DEAN AND SHARMAN,
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I HAVE THE REGRET TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT ACCORDING TO THE REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT MADE AFTER INTERROGATION OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN THE REGION OF PAK KADING AND MUONG KHAM KEUT WHO WERE CALLED IN ON THIS MATTER, THESE PERSONS MADE IT KNOWN THAT THEY HAD NEVER KNOWN, SEEN, ARRESTED AND DETAINED THESE TWO FOREIGNERS. THE SAME AUTHORITIES ALSO MADE KNOWN THAT NEITHER THEY NOR THE POPULATION OF THAT AREA HAD KNOWN AND ARRESTED THE SO-CALLED "SOLDIER OF THE NATIONAL ARMY" THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAD TAKEN AS A WITNESS.
QUOTE - IT IS THEREFORE CLEAR THAT THE FALSIFIED TESTIMONIES ARE CREATED OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH BY THE SOLDIER OF THE OPPOSITE SIDE IN ORDER TO TRY TO CREATE NOTHING MORE NOR LESS THAN DISTRUST AND MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PATRIOTIC FORCES AND THE AUSTRALIAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLES.
QUOTE - AS YOUR EXCELLENCY AND ALL THOSE OTHER PERSONS IN THE REGION OF PAK KADING KNOW, ALL ALONG THE MEKONG WHICH SEPARATES THE ZONE CONTROLLED BY THE LAO PATRIOTIC FORCES AND THAILAND, THAI BOATS AND COMBAT AIRCRAFT HAVE CARRIED OUT INTENSE CONTROL AND REPRESSION ACTIVITIES AND HAVE OFTEN EMPLOYED RIFLES TO FIRE ON PIROGUES, SAMPANS AND RAFTS OF THE POPULATION,

CAPSIZING SEVERAL OF THEM AND CAUSING THE DEATH
OF THEIR OCCUPANTS. THUS THE FACT OF BRINGING THE
CASE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THE MEKONG TO
THROW THE RESPONSIBILITY ON THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT
IS AN UNACCEPTABLE THING FOR IT.

QUOTE - IN THIS CONTEXT, I AM REALLY DISTRESSED BY THE
MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO FOREIGNERS AND ASK THAT
YOUR EXCELLENCY PLEASE KEEP THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN
EMBASSIES INFORMED.

QUOTE - I HAVE ASKED THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE LAO
PATRIOTIC FRONT TO PURSUE THE SEARCH AND I WILL NOT
FAIL TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE RESULTS. UNQUOTE.

4. SIGNED ORIGINAL OF PHOUMI'S LETTER TO SECRETARY
BEING POUCHED.
WHITEHOUSE

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NOTE BY OCT: VIENTIANE 1467 SEC 2 OF 2 (##) OMISSION.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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